

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 152339

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, CM

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS COUNTRY EVALUATION PLANS

REF: YAOUNDE 2720

1. BECAUSE DRAFT HUMAN RIGHTS COUNTRY EVALUATION PLANS
MUST STILL BE REVIEWED BY DEPUTY SECRETARY, D/HA AND OTHER
ELEMENTS AND BECAUSE THESE MAY LATER BE INCORPORATED, AT
LEAST IN PART, INTO PARM, YOU CANNOT AT THIS TIME DISCUSS
EVALUATION PLAN WITH CAMEROONIAN OFFICIALS. WHILE IT IS
NOT INTENDED THAT TEXTS OF CURRENT CDP'S BECOME PUBLIC,
FACT THAT SUCH PLANS EXIST MAY WELL BECOME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE.
YOU MAY, THEREFORE, AS APPROPRIATE WISH TO VERBALLY INFORM
CAMEROONIAN OFFICIALS THAT WE ARE CONTINUING TO REVIEW
HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN ALL COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD
IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR WELL-KNOWN CONCERNS IN THIS AREA.

2. RE YOUR QUESTION ON FREEDOM HOUSE: FREEDOM HOUSE'S
LATEST ANNUAL COMPARATIVE SURVEY OF FREEDOM (JANUARY -
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FEBRUARY 1977) RANKS CAMEROON AS "NOT FREE". IN COMPARATIVE
FREEDOM HOUSE RANKING OF NATIONS BY POLITICAL RIGHTS
ON A SCALE OF ONE (MOST FREE) TO SEVEN (LEAST FREE),
CAMEROON IS RANKED SEVEN, ALONG WITH BENIN, GHANA, SOMALIA,
THE USSR, CUBA AND MANY OTHERS. IN TERMS OF CIVIL RIGHTS,

FREEDOM HOUSE RANKS CAMEROON IN CATEGORY FIVE ON THE ONE

TO SEVEN SCALE IN COMPANY WITH EGYPT, INDONESIA, KENYA,
ZAMBIA, SOUTH KOREA, ETC.

3. TO ACHIEVE HIGH FREEDOM HOUSE RANKING FOR POLITICAL
RIGHTS A COUNTRY MUST HAVE FULLY OPERATIVE ELECTORAL
PROCEDURE, GENERALLY INCLUDING A MULTI-PARTY POLITICAL
SYSTEM. COUNTRIES WHERE POLITICAL COMPETITION IS RE-
STRICTED TO IN-FIGHTING WITHIN PARTY HIERARCHIES ARE
GENERALLY RANKED "LEAST FREE" BY FREEDOM HOUSE. IN TERMS
OF CIVIL RIGHTS, FREEDOM HOUSE CONSIDERS FOUR CRITICAL
RIGHTS: FREEDOM FROM POLITICAL CENSORSHIP, OPEN PUBLIC
DISCUSSION, THE RULE OF LAW, AND FREEDOM FROM GOVERNMENT
TERROR (E.G. ARBITRARY ARREST).

4. AF IS POUCHING INFORMATION ON FREEDOM HOUSE (FOUNDED
1941) AND MOST RECENT COMPARATIVE SURVEY OF FREEDOM
REFERRED TO ABOVE. VANCE

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